

March 26, 2013

The “solution” that the DC government is offering is unworkable in my mind, that of a regular patron of food trucks. L’Enfant Plaza has thousands of office workers, but are serviced by mostly average government cafeterias and a limited number of sit-down restaurants.

Limiting the number of trucks in a zone could very easily result in me losing my favorite trucks, and my favorite trucks losing their best customers, creating a zero-sum result. Trucks lose, customers lose and DC government loses (through reduced taxes on meals)

Keep the current system or refine it. Don’t blow it up the way you are planning.

Jim Tise
Focus FAA Editor

March 26, 2013

I support the DCRA’s new food truck regulations. The council should pass and execute these new regulations as soon as possible. I believe it will be helpful for all parties.

Thanks

Kazi Mohiuddin

March 26, 2013

Sir/Madam,

Supporting the new proposal for the food truck regulations. Hope it will improve the public parking spaces.

Thanks
Nasir Khan

March 27, 2013

I’m writing to urge you not to proceed with the proposed food cart rules. The food carts have greatly improved my workday and that of numerous others, by increasing the variety and quality of food options. They are exactly what the city should be encouraging; diverse, entrepreneurial, innovating small scale businesses, sited in a way that gets DCers outdoors and into interactive, public spaces. A food cart that serves 100s of DC residents is a far better use of a parking space than a car driven by a

commuter who could have taken the metro. Please don't enact these regulations, which will stifle an important development for the city.

Thank you,

Alice Clapman
Washington, DC

March 27, 2013

I recently read the article about imposing more restrictions on food trucks in the Post. DC continues to become more expensive for residents and business owners. If you want the surge of new and young residents to say give them a fun and reasonable lunch option for one thing. All the over priced boring sit down restaurants are a drag for residents and don't let up and comers have a chance that might lead them to opening a more profitable brick and mortar at a later time.

Keep this one fun thing easy to sustain in DC!

Sarah O'Connell

March 28, 2013

I am an avid food truck fan. I try to visit the food trucks at least once a week to support the new local businesses. I want to state that I have always been a "brown bag" lunch type of person and in no way are brick and mortar stores losing my money to the food trucks. If you get rid of the food trucks I will go back to just bringing a lunch.

Today, a popular food truck website posted a map depicting where the food trucks will be able to serve. Looking at the map, that is just out right unfair. The lottery system for mobile vending spots is also unfair too. If a truck doesn't earn a lottery spot there are very slim options for the truck to serve in another location. That means that truck just lost \$25 and will then lose additional money because it will not be able to serve its customers. Please explain to me how that is fair to a new start up business?

I found Mayor Gray's comments about crowd funding pretty hilarious. The man praises a local restaurateur for using the crowd funding service Kickstarter to open a business in Union Market while not mentioning anything about the food trucks. Is he unaware that there are 3 D.C. food trucks (D.C. Empanadas, Curbside Cupcake and TaKorean) that also opened a "brick and mortar" shop in that same market? Does he not see how food trucks grow into full fledged restaurants? For example, District Taco started as a food truck, expanded to a Virginia restaurant and then expanded again into D.C. Are you all intentionally ignoring these positive additions just because they started on a truck?

I find these rules extremely anti-competitive. Isn't the whole purpose of this government is having the right to choose? I choose the trucks. I believe that the DCRA can sit down and truly make a viable option to equally and fairly include food trucks into the food scene. Also, why are these trucks different than the hot dog stands the line the mall? Every single one of those trucks park in the same spot day in and day out, they all sell the same horrible food and they all sell the exact same thing. Wouldn't it be good for the community to add a little diversity? Isn't that what America is all about?

If you think this system as currently written is fair you are wrong. The fact that it can serve on Virginia Ave and 21st where there are no restaurants is ridiculous. Food trucks should be able to park in any legal parking spot. If a sandwich truck parks in front of a sandwich shop that should be okay. If either side, truck or restaurant, can't handle the competition than they can go somewhere else. Survival of the fittest, the government shouldn't decide who gets to win, the people should. Isn't that why we hold elections to vote our representatives into office?

Meredith Carlton

Frequent visitor to the food trucks in the Foggy Bottom area where there is NO GOOD FOOD.

March 28, 2013

As someone who works above Metro Center and eats from a food truck nearly every day, I am STRONGLY opposed to the new proposed food truck regulations. These regulations will needlessly limit my meal choices and cost this city hundreds of jobs. Please DO NOT pass these regulations.

Sincerely,

Becca Schendel Norris
Washington, DC

March 28, 2013

As a DC resident, I am writing to oppose DC's regulations on food trucks. It makes no sense to me why these trucks are being regulated in the first place. The city should be doing everything they can to embrace the trend. The trucks pay sales tax, and I know of at least 3 that have turned into brick and mortar restaurants. What problem does the regulation aim to solve? Who has complained? Certainly not the consumers. The only thing this regulation will protect is cafes and other lunch locations that have locations in the downtown area. It shouldn't be up to the city government to protect those places, it should be the city's goal to reward innovation.

Zach Cockrum

March 28, 2013

I strongly oppose the mobile vending zones proposal that subjects trucks to a lottery and caps the total number of trucks in each popular area. Under a lottery, some of the best trucks would be forced to shut down, as there's not a business model in not knowing each month whether you'll be allowed to operate.

I frequently visit food truck gathering places, and enjoy the wide variety of choice and value presented by the large number of trucks. Furthermore, they don't detract from the public space, they bring vibrancy to space that was formerly underutilized. I never visited DC's public squares before the food trucks, except to cross through them between my work and the metro station. Now I frequently enjoy them over my lunch break.

Sincerely,

Erek Dyskant

March 28, 2013

Hi, I work at 600 MD Ave, and there were very few food options in the neighborhood until the food trucks came along. Now we have an abundance of options every day, and they are extremely popular. Please don't regulate them away!

Thanks!

George Bowman

March 28, 2013

The current proposed food truck regulations are preposterous and hinder business opportunities within the District! These regulations limit opportunities for trucks, deter variety and just suck overall!

I appreciate going outside my office and being served by the many more option that are presented to me by the food trucks. By limiting trucks to only lottery winning trucks, several trucks will be SEVERELY limited in their location opportunities and may not be able to serve at all if a lottery spot is not won. By regulating which trucks, which spot, which day, DC is not letting the demand control the market. I love knowing that the cupcake truck is outside my office on Wednesdays and the cookie truck is there every Friday to start the weekend right.

DC needs to work with the food truck vendors to devise regulations that will work for everyone.

Adaisha M. Garrison
Washington, DC

March 28, 2013

My name is Angelina Cho and I am a self-proclaimed foodie. This is probably not your first e-mail or letter of the day regarding the possible food truck regulations. As you can probably tell, the food-loving community here in Washington, D.C. is extremely close-knit.

The food truck culture is very new, in terms of where to get your lunch. But, in a city like Washington, D.C., where we are boasting more and more foodies, world-renowned chefs, and James Beard nominees every year, you would think that the city would be more open to the food culture. In Washington, D.C., where we thrive on diversity and different backgrounds, it's nice to be able to go into the city, look around, and have the option to choose from many different cuisines.

What exactly is the "balance of interests" that Mayor Gray is talking about? How are these outrageous regulations, which come with a hefty price tag, helpful to anyone? Does this help me, a 23 year old legal assistant working in Farragut North where otherwise, I'm restricted to the same handful of lunch spots every day? Does it help the businesses, the food trucks? They'll be stuck in the least popular areas, unable to be where the demand is. And they'll only be stuck there if they get a lottery in their favor! Are food trucks going to have an easier time to get brick-and-mortar locations? That should be the case, if these regulations pass, since the regulations essentially make the "truck" part of "food truck" useless.

What exactly is the DC Council really looking for with these regulations? Is the hope that food trucks will grit their teeth, go where the demand in, and pay up thousands of dollars in fines, just so we, the customers, can get the food we want in this city?

Listen to us. We are the consumers. We are asking you to not let these regulations pass.

Thank you,

Angelina Lee Cho

March 28, 2013

I am a huge fan of Food Trucks. What I like most about them is that some of them serve gourmet foods that I couldn't get anywhere else near my office. If Food Trucks stop coming to my stop I'm more likely to bring my own lunch, which won't help anyone. I work near the State Department and many Food Trucks come here everyday. It's a great scene, especially in Spring. Workers come outside to get some fresh air and share a nice meal. The new regulations would not allowed Trucks to come to this stop because it has less than 10 feet. You should visit this stop, if it wasn't for the trucks there would barely

be any foot traffic. You are not helping the consumer by passing these tough regulations and limiting their numbers with a lottery. Please keep the consumer in mind. I want to continue having the right to choose where I get my food from. Please let all food trucks to continue serving us.

Sincerely,

Federico Ortiz

March 28, 2013

I would like to express my disapproval of the proposed “Mobile Vending” regulations. In my view, these rules would restrict consumer choice without offering any clear consumer benefit. The District of Columbia is fortunate enough to be the home of an expanding new industry which has improved the lives of thousands of residents, and inappropriate regulation that could stifle this industry would be a tragedy and an unnecessary mistake.

Please reconsider these regulations. As a DC resident and voter, I hope that DDOT and the rest of the DC government err on the side of consumer freedom. Please let me know if you have any other questions; I hope this matter is resolved in a timely and agreeable manner.

Regards,

Adam L. Stempel

Washington, DC 20005

March 28, 2013

I am a DC resident who works near Metro Center. Before the food trucks, there were very limited options for lunch. Now, we get a wide variety of different options every day. I was able to try new and interesting foods at a low cost, and the trucks add character and fun to an otherwise dull area.

I am opposed to the proposed regulations because I am worried that the regulations would limit the number of the trucks that would serve the area. The trucks choose to cluster in certain locations because the demand for their products are highest in those areas.

I am disappointed to see that the city council is restricting and penalizing local entrepreneurs because they have been successful. Food trucks are an excellent opportunity to start a business with a low capital investment. As a result, many trucks are owned and operated by immigrants and young people. The City Council should be encouraging this type of entrepreneurship because it fosters growth and provides a valuable and wanted service to the community at the same time.

In the Washington Post, the Restaurant Association stated that it was “unfair for mobile vendors to arbitrarily poach diners on their turf.” Of course, it is unfortunate that established restaurants are losing business. But nothing “unfair” is happening here. The fact is, the brick-and-mortar restaurants in this area cannot compete in quality, which is why people are turning to food trucks. Rather than running to the government to protect their interests, these restaurants should work on improving the quality of their food so that they can be competitive again.

Thank you for your consideration.

Thea Cohen

March 28, 2013

I am writing in strong opposition to the proposed regulation that would severely limit mobile food operations, particularly food trucks, from DC’s central business districts. The addition of food trucks, especially at Farragut Square, has provided a level of choices and competition to the neighborhood that is extremely healthy for our city’s economy and provides desperately needed food options to those of us who work in the neighborhood.

The proposed lottery for parking spots and severe limits on the number of trucks able to compete at a given location would needlessly hamper a thriving set of DC businesses. Fewer food truck options at Farragut or other locations would discourage patrons from using the food trucks, reducing revenue for the city and cutting off a vibrant new industry that is helping draw positive attention to DC as a place for entrepreneurs to thrive OUTSIDE the realm of government contracting.

As a longtime DC resident, the last thing we need is to have the city needlessly impose regulations on a homegrown set of businesses to protect the status quo and interest of the DCRA. Let DC food truck entrepreneurs continue to thrive and give us another way to spend our cash in the city.

Josh Freed
WDC 20010

March 28, 2013

I wanted to write to express my opposition to the proposed food truck regulations. As a long-time worker in downtown DC and frequent food truck customer, these regulations seem to stifle consumer choice and make life difficult for valuable DC small businesses, with no apparent advantage. While I can understand the principle behind vending zones, the system as implemented here in DC seems unrealistic - asking food truck owners to accept a potentially life-changing hit to their business if they don’t win a monthly lottery is not a way to encourage these businesses. While I understand the need for new regulation, I think that the proposed plan needs to be sent back to the drawing board and replaced with something that allows greater access to these businesses that have contributed a lot to DC.

Sincerely,

Mark Donaldson

March 28, 2013

I recently learned of the proposed plans to heavily restrict food trucks from gathering in key popular areas. The very fact of the popularity of these centers where food trucks congregate indicates that there is public demand for this unique type of restaurant business.

I understand that there is pressure from incumbent brick & mortar restaurants to help restrict competition and ensure their survival, but please consider what the people actually want. Find a way to regulate food trucks and resolve issues with parking etc. without banning someone that so many people enjoy.

Chris Svetlik

March 28, 2013

Please stop with the food truck regs. They are a “solution” in search of a problem. The food trucks offer great lunch options. These are the hustling small businesses that should be encouraged, not arbitrarily smacked. These regs are a naked attempt by politically powerful restaurant owners and landlords to stamp out competition.

Please just let them be. Or better yet, make their lives easier.

Thanks

Alex DeMots

Washington DC

March 28, 2013

I recently read about a proposed regulation that would severely limit mobile food operations, particularly food trucks, from DC’s central business districts. I am strongly opposed to such regulations. As a frequent food truck customer in the Farragut Square area, I have found that they have provided a level of choices and competition to the neighborhood provides deeply appreciated options to those of us who work in the neighborhood. I have noticed that food trucks also provide a launching pad for restauranteurs to gain the necessary capital to start brick and mortar restaurants, like Pleasant Pops in

Adams Morgan, or Kangaroo Boxing Club in Columbia Heights.

The proposed lottery for parking spots and severe limits on the number of trucks able to compete at a given location would strangle DC businesses, and negatively impact what is becoming one of the great pleasures of living in this city. Fewer food truck options at Farragut or other locations, especially for those government employees in SW or on Capitol Hill, would discourage patrons from using the food trucks, reducing revenue for the city and cutting off a vibrant new industry that is helping draw positive attention to DC as a place for entrepreneurs to thrive OUTSIDE the realm of government contracting.

As a DC homeowner, the last thing we need is to have the city needlessly impose regulations on a homegrown set of businesses to protect the status quo and interest of the DCRA. Let DC food truck entrepreneurs continue to thrive and give us another way to spend our cash in the city.

I am sending a copy of this message to my councilman. Thank you for your consideration.

Mieke Eoyang
Washington, DC 20009

March 28, 2013

Having read the new proposals for regulating food trucks, I felt strongly compelled to write in against them. The lottery proposal for downtown limits the district's revenue opportunity and hurts local/small businesses. I work in McPherson Square, and I've noticed an increasing amount of franchise and chain restaurants downtown at high prices. Devon & Blakely costs \$10 for a salad and a water.

What would I do if the food trucks weren't an eating option downtown? I'd bring lunch or I'd work from home. That means I'm not contributing to Metro/cab revenue, and I'm not shopping in stores downtown. You know who else uses food trucks? Young people who can't afford to eat at DC Coast every day.

The trucks really don't pose a problem for anyone but restaurants. Traffic isn't any better or worse. The amount of parking isn't an issue for most people. Your group should be focused on how to increase overall food sales and how to capitalize on tax revenue. Charge a premium for parking for food trucks. Limit the hours. But don't create an uneven playing field for old brick and mortar restaurants.

Other than being a loyal customer, I am in no way affiliated with the food trucks. But as a loyal, voting resident of the district, I would hate to see regulations that inhibit economic growth in these tough times.

Respectfully,

Rob Crawford
DC Resident

March 28, 2013

I am writing to express my opposition to Mayor Gray's proposed food truck regulations. These regulations take away food choice from DC consumers with no warranted justification. Food truck owners will not be able to survive under these strict rules. In a time of high national unemployment, entrepreneurs such as food truck operators should be encouraged, not punished, for striking out on their own and seeking to build businesses for themselves and hire others.

I work full time in downtown DC near where the food trucks often congregate, but I live in Virginia. Should these regulations pass and food truck owners go out of business as a result, I will cease to make any purchases in DC until entrepreneur friendly rules are reinstated. No matter how inconvenient it is for me, I will not purchase another item in the District and contribute to the city's tax base so long as the city seeks to punish creative, innovative and risk taking entrepreneurs. I will encourage many others to do the same.

Thank you.

Leland Smith

March 28, 2013

As a DC native I strongly concur with the sentiments below - longtime residents welcome innovation and experimentation in DC and want the city to continue to progress culturally and economically - allowing entrepreneurs to gain a foothold in the market and enhance the offerings available to the downtown community makes too much sense.

As a federal employee and long time worker in DC, I love what DC food trucks have to offer for me.

The city certainly has business regulating the food and overall safety of food trucks, however imposing additional requirements beyond these will serve no one, but existing brick and mortar restaurants who have lobbied to get rid of these food trucks.

These trucks serve a valuable purpose in making a lively and interesting food and dining environment in the city. The existence of these trucks increases the likelihood that people will want to work, live, and visit in DC.

Please reconsider the onerous regulations that have already driven one truck out of business and threaten many more.

These regulations are shortsighted, and don't actually serve to make DC any safer. Driving away food trucks ruins financial opportunities for competition and innovation. The city should not be in the business of picking winners and losers among food providers.

Thank you,
Daniel E. Meyerson, Esq.

March 28, 2013

I am writing to express my outrage over the proposed food truck regulations. Though "ban" would seem to be a more appropriate term, since the intent seems to be to ban all but a handful of trucks. I have not seen any justification for the proposal and would like to know why (other than campaign contributions), the city is contemplating such an undemocratic action. Can you tell me what alleged problem the city is trying to address?

On the off-chance that any of them pay attention to public comments, you might remind some of DC's elected officials that many of us that like to frequent food trucks in DC are also DC voters. Rather angry ones. And since eating lunch is something I do everyday, I have no doubt I'll remember that for many election cycles to come. Because this isn't just bad policy; it's a sign that those supporting it are deeply corrupt and/or incompetent.

I look forward to receiving a response from your office.

Sincerely,
Jessica Hill

March 28, 2013

I have purchased food from food trucks almost every day for the past two years. If the proposed vending regulations go into effect, I will be purchasing food in Virginia and bringing it to work, and therefore not paying sales tax in DC. The proposed vending regulations are not good for the city or the people who work here.

Jesse Grimes

March 28, 2013

As someone who works directly in front of Franklin Park, I can definitively say that the proposed regulations will negatively effect the immediate area and will prevent businesses from operating around a park that has very few quick-service options for the "lunchtime" crowd. Their current location around the perimeter of Franklin Park will be completely off-limits according to the Food Truck Association of

Metropolitan of Washington's map and will result in fewer people using the park during nice weather and will severely limit consumer choice.

While I understand the concerns of the brick-and-mortar business community at large, as a consumer, I am very disappointed at the range of creative and ethnic foods available in DC as a whole and specifically in the downtown area. The consumer-driven popularity of food trucks has resulted in a wide range of creative concepts and represents the best in a competitive, capitalist economy. If not for these trucks, the vast majority of options in this area are either a sit-down restaurant or a quick-service chain. Chain businesses, while they may be franchises owned by a resident, do not bring in the same level of creativity or local culture.

I encourage the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs to rethink these regulations and favor consumer market-driven solutions versus imposing unnecessary laws that are clearly influenced by some that are displeased that their business has been impacted. Perhaps those business owners should innovate more and rely on government less instead of pressing for regulations that just increase government intervention.

I sincerely hope these comments will be included in the public record and considered by DCRA. I am a resident of Ward 2 and an employee of a DC-based organization and therefore have a vested interest in the legislation passed by DCRA.

Thank you,

Ashleigh Whelan

March 28, 2013

I am writing today to register my disappointment with the recently proposed food truck regulations. I work directly across from Franklin Park, and I can tell you from experience that the proposed regulations will needlessly hurt the immediate area. These new rules would prevent businesses from operating around a park that has very few quick-service options for the "lunchtime" crowds – options that have operated as virtual monopolies for busy DC workers for many years.

According to a map provided by the Food Truck Association of Metropolitan of Washington, the food trucks current locations around the perimeter of Franklin Park will be completely off-limits. This will result in fewer people using the park during nice weather (it often went almost completely unused before the food trucks took root, and will severely limit consumer choice in the Franklin Park area.

I understand the concerns of the brick-and-mortar business community at large, but as a consumer, I am very disappointed at the range of creative and ethnic foods available in DC as a whole and specifically in the downtown area. The consumer-driven popularity of food trucks has resulted in a wide range of creative concepts and represents some of the best in a competitive, capitalist economy. If not for these trucks, the vast majority of options in this area are either a sit-down restaurant or a quick-service chain.

Chain businesses, while they may be franchises owned by a resident, do not bring in the same level of creativity or local culture. Further, I question the real impact that the food trucks have had on most businesses around the food trucks. Their lines remain just as long, and their prices have remained the same since the introduction of the food trucks to the area. I think they've considered themselves immune from competition and believe they have a certain right to the money of the workers in the area.

I encourage the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs to rethink these regulations and favor consumer market-driven solutions versus imposing unnecessary laws that are clearly influenced by some that are displeased that their business has been impacted. Perhaps those business owners should innovate more and rely on government less instead of pressing for regulations that just increase government intervention.

I have the seen firsthand the positive impact that the food truck boom has had on worker happiness here, and I enjoy every time I hear that a food truck has itself transitioned to a brick and mortar establishment – which is happening with impressive frequency. I hope these comments will be included in the public record and considered by DCRA. I am a resident of Ward 6 and an employee of a DC-based organization and therefore have a vested interest in the legislation passed by DCRA.

Regards,
Brian Zupruk

March 28, 2013

Regarding the proposed vending regulations I have to say that this is a ridiculous step for a city running a surplus to take. Everyone loves the food trucks downtown and as an office worker in the Farrugut square are I can say they greatly enhance my choices for lunch time options and add some quirk and character to this otherwise bland cityscape. I would be highly disappointed if any regulations make it harder for these trucks to serve this area or decrease the options we currently enjoy. For once it would be nice to see the District do something that its citizens actually want, instead of blindly trying to raise new taxes at every turn.

Thank you,
Devin Chesney

March 28, 2013

My name is Natalie Cook and I am a proud supporter of the food trucks that cater to workers in Washington, D.C. I am compelled to write you regarding the upcoming consideration of regulations that would severely limit the number and locations of the food trucks operating in the District.

Having reviewed the proposed changes, I would strongly encourage you NOT to implement them as they currently stand. I understand the need to regulate the industry, the potential strain on parking they may cause and the threat to brick-and-mortar businesses in the area. However, I do not believe that stifling their growth and development is a productive response to the current and potential problems this economic development may cause.

I have talked with several food truck owners and I understand both from watching and communicating with them that they follow traffic and parking regulations, pay meters properly and follow other regulations. They are a sight to behold but not an eye sore.

I am a resident of Virginia who commutes to the District daily. I understand well the frustration that District residents have with people like me, and one of the most direct ways I contribute to the District's economy is through the financial contribution I make by dining out while at work. I work in an area near Union Station, but not convenient enough for me to frequently leave my desk and go there for lunch. Until the food trucks began to frequent my neighborhood, I often chose to eat at my desk. The two quick food options did not appeal to me on a daily basis, their selection was limited and their prices high. With the advent of food trucks in my area daily, I eat out significantly more often than before, contributing to employment in the District, paying sales tax to the District and boosting the economic bottom line as many trucks are owned by brick-and-mortar restaurants in the District.

I understand well the frustration that restaurant owners have with the development of the food truck industry. I have seen one local restaurant owner yelling at truck drivers, calling police to ticket them and harassing people in line for food truck items. It is sad that the owner feels threatened by the food truck business, but I can attest that, were the trucks not there, I would not be any more motivated to eat at the restaurant. Additionally, I have noticed that in recent weeks, the restaurant has undergone several aesthetic and menu changes that significantly increase its appeal to consumers and has increased its business. In the last few weeks, it has done a better job of responding to the desires of its customer base than it had in the last several years. I find myself visiting that restaurant more regularly than ever before, and I attribute it to the competition from food trucks. That competition did not drive away my business, but actually attracted it. However, I can predict that if the food trucks leave or are severely limited, the personal motivation I feel to explore the neighborhood's food options, storefront or food truck, will diminish greatly. I will be much less likely to patronize any restaurant, again eating food at my desk that is brought in from home.

By so severely regulating the food truck industry, the government is picking winners and losers, stifling economic growth and development, inhibiting the increased feeling of community in the downtown area and restricting an innovative and unique aspect of the District's food culture.

Please take into consideration all the parties at hand, not just those who own storefront restaurants. The trucks provide significant and real benefit to the District and should not be regulated out of business.

Sincerely,
Natalie Cook

March 28, 2013

Regarding the proposed food truck regulations: food trucks currently offer consumers a well-liked choice for meals. Food trucks are especially popular downtown, where they offer an alternative to high-priced restaurant fare.

The proposed food truck regulations would greatly restrict the operations of food trucks. They would put most food trucks out of business. They would arbitrarily restrict food trucks from operating in exactly those places where there are many consumers that want to buy meals from food trucks. They would turn food truck operations into a literal lottery.

The current food truck regulations work well. There is no need for the new proposed regulations. By putting most food trucks out of business, food trucks would lose and consumers would lose from these proposed regulations. The only people who would benefit are restaurant owners, who would see some of their competition disappear. I urge you to throw out these proposed regulations in their entirety as bad for consumers, bad for competition, and bad for the District of Columbia.

Thank you.

Rebecca Kalmus

March 29, 2013

The mayors proposed regs are an excellent idea. It would spread those food trucks out and provide adequate service to employees. It would also free up some parking spaces around Farragaut Square. Fifteen trucks around the park is insane.

Edward Harris

March 29, 2013

I recently saw the proposed map detailing the whereabouts of food trucks and their (in)ability to park downtown. I will be concise, but I believe there are three main reasons why the grid should be expanded to allow more trucks.

1- Economically and developmentally, this city needs more choices for the lower and middle income brackets of employees that staff the downtown area. Good, healthy food at reasonable prices are nearly impossible to find as the real estate has been picked up by notable chefs and fancy restaurants that leave fair options reduced to eating sandwiches all the time, averaging at nearly 15 dollars a meal (sandwich, drink, and side). Food trucks offer larger, healthier portions and allow constant variety at around \$10 or less.

2- These trucks have become a novelty to the DC business district, and food tourism is on the rise. I personally know family and friends who have come to town just to experience our growing vista of food options, all available at (again) reasonable prices, so that their food bills do not match their hotel bills. Also, our food trucks have been specifically highlighted across network tv (Parks and Recreation on NBC), and our food scene is growing as a result-- we're coming for you NY! Let's keep this growth going!

3- Offering local businesses the opportunity for ingenuity and allowing everyday people to test their business outside of restaurants broadens the market of consumers, increasing sales, diversifying food supply lines regionally, and better strengthening our local economy as a whole, with our DC as its key stone.

Please allow for the food trucks to have more room to feed the hoards in our already pedestrian-friendly downtown. While traffic will always be a fixture of our town until Metro expands further, we have to look to our collective future and see that offering sustainable, market driven food options to every citizen and guest of the city is a good and worthy cause to trumpet.

Thank you for your time, and Viva la Food Trucks!!

Sincerely,

Jessica Boisvert
DC Resident, 20009

March 29, 2013

I would like to express my opposition to the proposed Food Truck Regulations. I work next to two of the frequent gathering places of food trucks in Metro Center and Franklin Park. The proposed regulations would serve only to limit the number of food trucks that would be available at each location to three, instead of the seven or eight that arrive each day. There is no rational justification for this limit, other than to protect incumbent brick and mortar food establishments, which is not a legitimate reason. Your position as a regulator is not supposed to be captured by incumbent businesses -- you are supposed to protect consumers, not individual competitors. The food trucks have drastically increased competition for lunch time food operators and given consumers numerous new choices. I strongly urge you to reconsider these regulations and ensure that open and vigorous competition continues by deleting any limitation on the number of vendors that can gather in one area.

Sincerely,
David Young

March 29, 2013

Please consider the concerns of food truck operators. They need more flexibility and need to operate in high-traffic areas. I work at the State Department in Foggy Bottom, and 10 food trucks show up on a daily basis and all have huge lines. The food options are extremely limited in the area and the food truck provide an exciting alternative.

Many major cities are famous for their food trucks. DC can be one of them. It's disappointing that the mayor cares more about pleasing the restaurant lobby than encouraging businesses that can help make DC stand out as a city that's more than the National Mall. The proposed regulations would kill these small businesses and force workers to eat garbage food like Subway, Quiznos, and horrible DC "pizza".

I hope that DC Government will support affordable and diverse food options for the public, rather than serve the special interest of restaurants. Your proposed new regulations creating special vending zones are a BAD idea. Please reconsider and support ALL businesses.

George Bouza
District Resident

March 29, 2013

I am not a resident of the city, but I do work in the city every day. Limiting the locations that DC Food Trucks can serve will not be beneficial to the local restaurants like certain legislators may think. In my 4 years of working in the city, I have gone to a sit down restaurant for lunch less than 10 times. While I have visited food trucks several times a month if not at least once a week. There are also many areas of the city, located in the 500 ft zones, that do not have many carry out options. If they are available, they can be difficult to get to due to distance. Food trucks make lunch options available to those people. Food trucks also offer a variety that local restaurants do not have. I can try foods from 3 different countries in one week with a short walk when utilizing food trucks. To walk that same distance, I have only Americana sit down and carry out restaurants.

I do not believe that all of the issues surrounding food trucks have been properly discussed or understood by our city's legislators.

Sincerely,

Christen Jeckell

March 29, 2013

Please consider the concerns of food truck operators. They need more flexibility and need to operate in high-traffic areas. I work at the State Department in Foggy Bottom, and 10 food trucks show up on a

daily basis and all have huge lines. The food options are extremely limited in the area and the food truck provide an exciting alternative.

Stephanie Newman

March 29, 2013

Many major cities are famous for their food trucks. DC can be one of them. It's disappointing that the mayor cares more about pleasing the restaurant lobby than encouraging businesses that can help make DC stand out as a city that's more than the National Mall. The proposed regulations would kill these small businesses and force workers to eat garbage food like Subway, Quiznos, and horrible DC "pizza".

Robert Scarduzio

March 29, 2013

I am writing today as a concerned DC resident.

It has come to my attention that DC is now considering a new mobile vendor lottery system that would require vendors to occupy single neighborhood locations throughout the month.

I also understand that the Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington is in favor of this plan. As this association represents the interests of brick and mortar restaurants, I suppose this position is not all that surprising.

What is surprising is that the DC government would do the dirty work for them.

What problem is this regulation attempting to solve? According to the RAMW, food trucks are a "disruption to public space."

I assure you, the Restaurant Association is the only entity who thinks so.

For those of who live and work in DC, the food truck atmosphere represents everything we love about living here. Like a visit to Eastern Market on a Saturday, the food trucks are a welcome relief from the monotony of the work week.

Please stop this food truck lottery proposal. It is an irrational and business-killing idea.

Thank you,

Casey Fitzpatrick
Ward 6 Resident

March 29, 2013

I am a resident of DC, a voter, and a regular food truck customer.

Please do not specify special zones throughout the city for food trucks with a lottery system.

I understand the District is always looking for new revenue sources, but this is not the way to do it. Right now, food trucks go to certain locations based on demand. Personally, I monitor the food trucks online to see when my favorite will be in my neighborhood. The scarcity is what makes the food truck model work. I can't have my favorite foods every single day so I never take it for granted.

The lottery system will destroy the entire food truck business model by requiring vendors to stay in one place, day after day.

I've read that several food truck owners are considering shutting down or moving their operations to Virginia and Maryland if the regulations prove too limiting in DC. If that happens, DC won't generate revenue and residents will lose a food culture that has made this city a better place to live and work.

Please reconsider adopting these new food vendor lottery regulations.

Sincerely,

Sydney Mild
Ward 6

March 29, 2013

I'm writing in regards to the District's proposed rulemaking amends to food truck vending license regulations.

As a DC resident, voter, and food truck customer, I am appalled that the District would even consider passing new rules that would restrict the city's food truck vendors to single neighborhoods for weeks at a time. The appeal of the food trucks is that they are constantly rotating.

If it's a question of generating more revenue for the District, perhaps you could add a 1¢ tax on food truck purchases?

Placing arduous restrictions on the vendors is not the way to generate revenue for DC. The only thing that will be accomplished by this lottery proposal is that you will push the food trucks out of DC and into Maryland and Virginia.

That result would not be beneficial to the vendors, the customers, or the District of Columbia.

I respectfully ask that you stop this food truck lottery system idea before it costs us the best thing to ever happen to DC lunch hours.

Thank you,
David Silva
Ward 2 Resident

March 29, 2013

As someone who lives and works in DC, I urge you to reconsider rules that would create a lottery and special food truck zones throughout the city.

A monthly lottery system would push many food truck vendors out of the central business district and into Virginia and Maryland where restrictions are not as suffocating. Trucks do half the business in lower-traffic locations like Friendship Heights and Navy Yard as they do downtown. It makes no sense to charge vendors a flat \$150 fee for the privilege of serving these lower-traffic neighborhoods.

I respectfully ask that you amend the Rulemaking for Street Vending and remove these costly lottery and zoning restrictions.

Sincerely,

Melissa Gallant
Ward 2 Resident

March 29, 2013

I am writing to you today because I am firmly against the establishment of "23 mobile vending zones" that would limit the number of food trucks that would be allowed to sell food.

Requiring food trucks to pay \$150 a month (in addition to \$25 lottery entry fees) for spots will destroy the spirit of the food trucks. They are mobile. They should be able to pick up and move to different locations if sales are low in one specific neighborhood.

As a food truck customer, what I enjoy about the trucks is that they are constantly rotating. These regulations will destroy the food truck industry.

I hope you reconsider.

Thank you,

Jordan Zappala
resident of Ward 6

March 29, 2013

I am a Ward 5 resident who is furious about the proposed food truck lottery system.

I do not understand the problem the District is trying to solve with the creation of 23 mobile vending zones. Last year, food trucks were hit with a 10% sales tax. That made sense to me from a revenue-generating point of view. This doesn't.

When the food trucks move to Maryland and Virginia or close up shop altogether, DC will miss out on tax dollars entirely.

I am sure that the Restaurant Association (RAMW) is behind this latest scheme. But as a resident and DC taxpayer, I hope my opinion will also hold some sway.

Please do not mess up a good thing by imposing these new food truck regulations, lotteries and zones.

Sincerely,

Evlondo Cooper

March 29, 2013

I work in Ward 2 and I am writing to ask that **do not** create 23 mobile vending zones for food trucks.

This proposal will force food trucks out of DC and into MD and VA. That will hurt DC and those of us who work here.

Please stop this food truck lottery proposal. It is an irrational and business-killing idea.

Sincerely,
Rich Edmondson

March 29, 2013

I am in support of the new regulation. There are places where 10-15 food trucks parked and make the whole area dirty. They also unfairly putting lots of small restaurant owners out of business.

Regards
Mohammad A. Khan

March 29, 2013

I'm writing in regards to the District's proposed rulemaking amends to food truck vending license regulations.

As a DC resident, voter, and food truck customer, I am outraged that the District is considering rules that would restrict the city's food truck vendors to single locations.

The appeal of the food trucks is that they are constantly rotating.

Placing new regulations on vendors is not the way to generate revenue for DC. The only thing that will be accomplished by this lottery proposal is that you will push the food trucks out of DC and into Maryland and Virginia.

I respectfully ask that you stop this food truck lottery system idea

Sincerely,
Michael Buss
Ward 2 Resident

March 29, 2013

As someone who lives and works in DC, I urge you to reconsider rules that would create a lottery and special food truck zones throughout the city.

A monthly lottery system would push many food truck vendors out of the central business district and into Virginia and Maryland where restrictions are not as suffocating. Trucks do half the business in

lower-traffic locations like Friendship Heights and Navy Yard as they do downtown. It makes no sense to charge vendors a flat \$150 fee for the privilege of serving these lower-traffic neighborhoods.

I respectfully ask that you amend the Rulemaking for Street Vending and remove these costly lottery and zoning restrictions.

Sincerely,

Shannon Gallant
Ward 2 Resident

March 30, 2013

It has come to my attention as an aspiring mobile restaurant operator and consumer that the new restrictions on food trucks in the DC area would stifle the booming business and severely limit the dining choices (ethnic variety) that the food trucks offer.

Please reconsider this proposal. We love our food trucks!

Sincerely,
Nicola Tavares
